

§218.2

300 exercises over the course of 5 years (an average of 60 per year);

(E) Missile Exercise (MISSILEX) (Air-to-Surface; Maverick, HE)—up to 100 exercises over the course of 5 years (an average of 20 per year); and

(F) FIREX with IMPASS—up to 110 exercises over the course of 5 years (an average of 22 per year).

(2) [Reserved]

(d) Amended regulations are effective from February 1, 2012, through June 4, 2016.

(e) The taking of marine mammals may be authorized in an LOA for the explosive types and activities, or similar explosives or activities, listed in §218.1(c) should the amounts (e.g., number of exercises) vary from those estimated in §218.1(c), provided that the variation does not result in exceeding the amount of take indicated in §218.2(c).

[74 FR 28343, June 15, 2009, as amended at 76 FR 30554, May 26, 2011; 77 FR 4922, Feb. 1, 2012]

§218.2 Permissible methods of taking.

(a) Under Letters of Authorization issued pursuant to §216.106 of this chapter and §218.7, the Holder of the Letter of Authorization may incidentally, but not intentionally, take marine mammals within the area described in §218.1(b), provided the activity is in compliance with all terms, conditions, and requirements of this subpart and the appropriate Letter of Authorization.

(b) The activities identified in §218.1(c) must be conducted in a manner that minimizes, to the greatest extent practicable, any adverse impacts on marine mammals and their habitat.

(c) The incidental take of marine mammals under the activities identified in §218.1(c) is limited to the following species, by the indicated method of take and the indicated number of times:

(1) Level B Harassment:

(i) Mysticetes:

(A) Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)—10 (an average of 2 annually); and

(B) Fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*)—10 (an average of 2 annually).

(ii) Odontocetes:

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(A) Sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*)—10 (an average of 2 annually);

(B) Pygmy or dwarf sperm whales (*Kogia* sp.)—15 (an average of 3 annually);

(C) Rough-toothed dolphin (*Steno bredanensis*)—5 (an average of 1 annually);

(D) Bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*)—145 (an average of 29 annually);

(E) Pantropical spotted dolphin (*Stenella attenuata*)—350 (an average of 70 annually);

(F) Striped dolphin (*S. coeruleoalba*)—340 (an average of 68 annually);

(G) Clymene dolphin (*S. clymene*)—165 (an average of 33 annually);

(H) Atlantic spotted dolphin (*S. frontalis*)—215 (an average of 43 annually);

(I) Common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*)—10,965 (an average of 2,193 annually);

(J) Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*)—80 (an average of 16 annually); and

(K) Pilot whales (*Globicephala* sp.)—50 (an average of 10 annually).

(2) Level A Harassment (injury):

(i) Atlantic spotted dolphin—5 (an average of 1 annually);

(ii) Common dolphin—100 (an average of 20 annually);

(iii) Pantropical spotted dolphin—5 (an average of 1 annually); and

(iv) Striped dolphin—15 (an average of 3 annually).

§218.3 Prohibitions.

Notwithstanding takings contemplated in §218.2 and authorized by a Letter of Authorization issued under §216.106 of this chapter and §218.7, no person in connection with the activities described in §218.1 may:

(a) Take any marine mammal not specified in §218.2(c);

(b) Take any marine mammal specified in §218.2(c) other than by incidental take as specified in §218.2(c)(1) and (2);

(c) Take a marine mammal specified in §218.2(c) if such taking results in more than a negligible impact on the species or stocks of such marine mammal; or